



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: June 11, 2006
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Rain Damages Hay Crop, but Mostly Sunny Weather throughout the Week

Field Crops

Quality hay is in short supply as hay growers continued to see rain damage to their crop. Overall winter wheat, spring wheat and barley conditions were mostly good to excellent. Sweet corn growers raced to plant their crop. Some green pea growers began harvesting and Whitman County reported damage to lentils and garbanzo beans from erosion due to thunderstorms. Dry peas have begun to bloom and Christmas tree growers were busy monitoring fields for aphid infestations.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 10% poor, 18% fair, 58% good, and 10% excellent. Pastures were in good condition and producers continued moving cattle from spring pastures to summer pastures.

Fruit and Vegetables

Strawberry harvest continued and raspberry blooming was ending. Cherries were ready for harvest in Chelan and Douglas Counties and suffered some damage from rain. Apple producers began thinning the apple crop.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.8
Last Week	4.8

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	7	88	5
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	2	23	73	2
Subsoil	2	16	78	4
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	4	29	66	1
Irrigation Water	0	0	96	4
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	7	91	0
Hay & Roughage	4	14	78	4

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	36	11	57	38
Winter Wheat Headed	84	58	94	78
Barley Headed	31	11	40	32
Potatoes Emerged	97	95	99	99
Corn Planted	98	97	99	99
Corn Emerged	88	86	92	87
Dry Edible Beans Planted	100	99	97	92
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	82	57	83	81

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	6	18	57	18
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	7	47	46
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	6	25	60	9
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	15	66	19
Barley Dryland	0	16	22	52	10
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	60	40
Potatoes	0	2	13	82	3
Corn	0	3	21	76	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	14	66	20

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn growers raced to complete sowing of approximately 1500 acres. Rain showers in mid week brought a screeching halt to all field activity. Christmas tree growers continued monitoring fields for aphid infestations. Livestock producers were pleased to see forage fields continue rapid growth due to higher than normal rainfall. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid growth and heavy flowering. Retail nurseries and garden stores reported excellent bedding plant sales.

Grays/Lewis/Pacific: Showers continued to plague farmers trying to plant sweet corn and harvest hay. Planted crops were generally doing well.

Mason: Normal June weather brought warm daytime temperatures and enough rain that little irrigation was needed. Fruit trees looked promising, especially apples. Strawberries started to become available at Farmer's Markets and U-Pick operations. Other small fruits won't be far behind. Market gardens were thriving.

Mason (2nd Report): Earlier weather in May has resulted in great grass growth. The weather was cool and foggy in the mornings, but Sunday was warm and clear all day. If this weather continues farmers will be switching to irrigation mode. Producers may have to flail off the tops of the grass to keep it from seeding too much. Hay was cut earlier in the week. Rain was received mid-week which caused damage to the downed hay.

Pierce/S. King: Crop conditions remained good for the Puget Sound area. There were no unusual situations to report and no crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit: Farmers were excited to see the sun again here in Western Washington. We have had many days on end of overcast and rain. There were a couple of potato growers who still had a few fields to plant and were waiting for their ground to dry out. The strawberry harvest was underway and consumers were actively purchasing the new crop to get a taste of summer. Due to the weather, crops were coming out of the ground slowly and should set normal harvest dates back slightly.

The beet seed crop around the valley was looking very good for this time of year.

Skagit/Island/SanJuan: Weather has been mild. Most crops were planted. Approximately 85 percent of the potato acreage has been planted. Those fields that have emerged looked good. Some harvesting of hay crops has started. However, most fields were too wet to cut at this time. Strawberry harvesting has started. Sunny weather and heat units were now needed for all crops. Water availability was adequate bordering on a surplus for crops at this time. Overall consensus was that crops were doing well.

Snohomish/N. King: Rains during the week kept pastures in good condition but slowed fieldwork. Most crops were planted and growing well. Some plowing for late crops was still being done. Strawberry growers were expecting to begin harvesting. Raspberry bloom was about done.

Thurston: A week of mostly sunny weather with a few rain showers allowed agricultural producers to continue field cultivation and planting. Dairy producers were applying liquid manure to forage fields. Christmas tree growers were applying insecticides and fungicides on Noble fir plantations. Truck gardeners reported excellent sales of early season vegetable crops at the Olympia farmer's market. Home gardeners were harvesting onions, leaf lettuce and radishes.

Thurston (2nd Report): Vegetable gardening was a great success. Lettuce, kale and spinach looked great. Beets were going strong, while cabbage, broccoli, corns and tomatoes were all doing well. Wine grapes and apples were heavy set. The salmonberry crops were going great and the birds were happy. It is going to be a good fruit year in Western Washington.

Whatcom: The weather was nice Monday through Wednesday, it rained Thursday and Friday. A lot of producers chopped grass this past week and most of the grass was rained on later in the week.

Central

Benton: Hot conditions showed this past week with temperatures getting into the highs of 80-90 degrees in the county. No reports of crop damage.

Chelan/Douglas: Small amounts of precipitation received in some areas of the counties, and none in others. Hail and heavy rain occurred in the afternoons around the Chelan and Manson areas on Friday and Sunday. Crop losses were currently being evaluated. The cherries in that area were nearly ready for harvest, and therefore suffered the most damage. Apple and pear crops were also affected. Growers were beginning to thin the apple crop; therefore some of the damage could be managed. Pears can suffer more defects and still be sold as quality fruit. In addition to fruit losses, some trees were damaged. Wheat and pasture conditions were average.

Franklin: Thunder storms have been threatening alfalfa and timothy hay cuttings. Temperatures were

warming and most crops were growing strong.

Grant: High quality of alfalfa hay was very short. Export alfalfa was very short. Feeder hay was adequate; perhaps a surplus.

Kittitas: More moisture and mild temperatures. Some farmers were ready to cut hay but cannot because the weather won't dry out long enough. Phenomenal spring for rangeland pasture.

Klickitat: Untimely rains have hurt hay crop and cherries.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from one degree below normal to eight degrees above normal, with .20 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Most hay growers were complete with their first cutting and looking forward to a better second cutting. Some indicated that quality on that cutting may suffer as well, due to variable maturity where windrows laid for extended periods of time. Peas were beginning to bloom.

Asotin/Garfield: Cool weather and a few showers were beneficial to crops and rangeland. A few producers were starting to cut hay.

Garfield: Russian wheat aphids have been reduced due to parasitoids in wheat crops. There were numerous reports of cereal leaf beetle in soft white spring wheat in the lower part of the county (750 feet alt.) and apparently caused damage to flag leaves. Most winter and some spring wheat were now into heading and anthesis. Most spring wheat is Dark Northern Spring in 2006. Cool weather with thundershowers has been normal for the past week.

Lincoln: Continued rain was helping all crops.

Pend Oreille: Temperatures were 76 degrees for the highs and 36 degrees for the lows and precipitation was 0.9 inches. Plenty of light rain with mild temperatures have helped the fields. Livestock was grazing on new grasses and fattening up, while calves were growing good along with lambs and pigs. Weed spraying was being hampered due to wet weather but some had been done. Some fieldwork had stopped due to the wet ground conditions. Part-time creeks that were normally dry this time of year were still running to help sub-irrigate.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Another week of wet and wild weather. Cloudbursts were normal rather than

the exception this week. The heavy rain storms with some hail did some damage to crops. A fair amount of erosion was also taking place due to a full profile from the duration and amount of the rain that was coming down. Some of the new grass seedlings that were doing so well have had to be reseeded due to the amount of ditching that has taken place. Producers were not worried about mildew and rust in the wheat and grass seed crops. Hay growers were concerned the weather was not going to straighten out for a while and they would like to be cutting. Those that have already cut have some nicely washed hay and it will be feeder quality, if that. More rain predicted this week.

Stevens: Unsettled weather made haying difficult.

Stevens (2nd Report): Rain showers during the past week continued to prevent haying activities. Grain crops looked good. Rain fell most of the day on Saturday giving the soil another good soaking.

Walla Walla: Heavy thunder storms last Sunday laid some wheat down. The first of the green peas were being harvested. Good growing weather for pastures.

Whitman: Passing thunderstorms have caused problems with washouts and erosion. The persistent showers have also made it difficult on hay growers trying to put up their first cutting. Quality will be hurt by the rain. The showers were welcomed for spring and winter cereals. Damage has occurred in the lentils and garbanzo beans with erosion from thunderstorms. Peas have held up well and were beginning to bloom.

Weekly Weather Statistics

June 12, 2006

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	45	71	59	2	62	9	3	-4	0.50	0.08	3	31.83	-0.53	98	155
Everett	49	69	57	-2	54	-5	0	-8	0.32	-0.19	3	30.18	-2.42	93	158
Hoquiam	48	70	58	2	58	12	1	0	0.11	-0.45	3	68.98	5.05	108	178
Kelso	48	84	61	3	76	16	14	1	0.01	-0.55	1	41.87	-0.97	98	148
Olympia	46	80	59	2	64	12	6	-1	0.03	-0.39	1	51.86	4.35	109	147
Sea-Tac	50	76	61	1	76	9	10	-2	0.08	-0.32	1	36.15	1.75	105	146
Shelton	45	79	59	-1	63	-4	5	-9	0.11	-0.32	1	67.78	6.13	110	153
Tacoma	46	77	60	0	70	3	7	-6	0.00	-0.47	0	38.18	1.16	103	135
Vancouver	54	82	63	5	93	27	25	11	0.00	-0.42	0	41.57	3.25	108	144
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	46	81	64	4	101	27	31	10	0.01	-0.13	1	11.58	3.61	145	85
Stampede Pass	41	71	52	6	26	16	0	0	0.21	-0.53	3	66.70	-9.02	88	164
Wenatchee	51	84	66	2	110	6	40	1	0.02	-0.12	1	6.89	-0.40	95	62
Yakima AP	46	84	64	2	97	7	27	-3	0.20	0.06	1	9.63	2.53	136	74
NORTHEAST															
Colville	45	80	61	2	80	11	14	-5	0.94	0.53	4	18.75	0.71	104	103
Deer Park	40	79	59	-2	62	-5	5	-12	0.98	0.67	4	26.52	10.32	164	122
Spokane AP	45	78	60	0	74	4	11	-8	1.50	1.16	5	18.92	4.54	132	111
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	45	84	65	-3	103	-12	34	-14	0.07	-0.07	1	9.39	2.99	147	73
Moses Lake	47	85	64	-3	100	-15	30	-18	0.37	0.23	2	11.52	5.12	180	88
Quincy	49	82	64	-1	102	3	32	-5	0.00	-0.14	0	11.59	4.64	167	86
Ritzville	43	79	60	-1	74	1	11	-8	0.47	0.32	2	14.55	4.45	144	93
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	50	87	68	-2	125	-9	55	-9	0.01	-0.06	1	5.80	0.00	100	47
Pasco	50	87	69	2	135	14	65	12	0.00	-0.11	0	9.03	2.27	134	72
Pullman	43	78	60	3	71	16	9	-4	0.30	-0.05	4	12.86	-5.71	69	103
Whitman Miss.	44	82	64	0	99	4	30	-2	0.55	0.34	2	16.86	4.69	139	115
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	46	79	61	0	77	1	16	-4	0.57	0.08	4	10.16	-12.38	45	84
Lewiston ID	51	82	66	2	112	9	42	4	0.82	0.49	3	11.25	0.99	110	88

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2005

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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